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A chat with Ed Sheeran. 16

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KOCH BROTHERS UNHAPPY WITH HEALTHCARE BILL

1 Officials with the conservative U.S. political network overseen by the Koch brothers say they are unhappy with the healthcare bill that may be voted on by the Senate this week and will lobby for changes to it.
At a weekend event with conservative donors, top aides to Charles Koch, the billionaire energy magnate, said the Senate bill does not go far enough to dismantle former President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law, also known as Obamacare.
"We have been disappointed that movement has not been more dramatic toward a full repeal," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a grassroots advocacy group backed by Charles Koch and his brother, David.

60 HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN UK FAIL SAFETY TESTS

2 Sixty high-rise buildings have failed safety tests carried out after a fire killed at least 79 people in London earlier this month, the British government said on Sunday. British officials are conducting tests on some 600 high-rise buildings across England after fire ravaged the Grenfell tower block in west London on June 14, prompting public anger over the Conservative government's budget cuts. On Friday some 4,000 residents were forced to evacuate their homes in north London after the fire brigade ruled that their blocks were unsafe. The Department for Communities said in a statement that 60 high-rise buildings across 25 local authority areas had now failed the tests.

MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING MASS. JOGGER INDICTED

3 A Worcester man who was arrested in connection with the death of Princeton jogger Vanessa Marcotte back in April has now been indicted for murder, according to a statement from Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early. Angelo Colon-Ortiz, 31, was indicted for the murder of Marcotte by a Worcester County Grand Jury. Colon-Ortiz was arrested in April after his DNA matched that from samples found on Marcotte's hands.

Marcotte's body was found in the woods of Princeton, Massachusetts in August 2016. Marcotte was reported missing when she hadn't returned from a run and she likely struggled with her attacker, officials said not long after her death.

NY PRIDE

4 Paradegoers make their way down Fifth Avenue during the NYC Pride March on Sunday. The NYC Pride March celebrated its 48th annual parade. GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

TEXAS TODDLERS DIE AFTER LEFT IN HOT CAR

5 A Texas mother has been arrested for the deaths of her two toddlers who she said were left in a hot car to teach the older child a lesson while the woman smoked marijuana and took a nap, authorities said. Cynthia Randolph, 24, was being held on $200,000 bail for the deaths of her 16-month-old son and 2-year-old daughter last month, Danie Huffman, a spokeswoman for the Parker County Sheriff's Office, said in an email. Randolph had originally told investigators that she had been folding laundry and watching television in her rural home west of Fort Worth while the boy, Cavanaugh Ramirez, and his sister Juliet Ramirez played on a back porch, according to a criminal complaint. After noticing the children were missing, Randolph told officers she found them unresponsive in a locked car and broke a window to rescue them.

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KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA, WEB REPORTER

What happens when you threaten the life of the president of the United States? For Johnny Depp, we still aren't sure. For Kathy Griffin, it cost her sweet New Year's gig with Anderson Cooper. After Ted Nugent invited then-President Obama to "suck on my machine gun," he scored an invite to the White House to meet President Trump.

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Philadelphia's tech scene can benefit from how the city helps startups. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

How to Fix Philly: Growing the tech scene

Philadelphia may not be Silicon Valley, but some say supporting its tech scene's growth could help the whole city.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

When Comcast completes their second skyscraper and Philly's new tallest building next year — the $1.2 billion "technology and innovation center" — it will bring with it an estimated 1,500 new jobs in tech.

And, as a city that has seen steady growth in its information technology industry since 2001 — the Chamber of Commerce found an average growth of 4.4 percent over the rest of the region — it seems Philadelphia is fertile ground for tech jobs on the East Coast.

But, is the city as friendly to startups as it seems to be for a giant corporation like Comcast?

The numbers seem to indicate that it is. According to the Chamber of Commerce, since 2013, more than 361 companies in the Philadelphia region have garnered over $1.5 billion in venture funding and, last year, of the top 20 cities in the world for venture capital investment, Philadelphia was 18th.

Not bad for a city struggling with severe poverty and known as the poorest big city in the country.

"I've taken advantage of what this city has to offer," said Morgan Berman, CEO and Founder of Milkcrate LLC, a startup that created an app to help connect customers with sustainable businesses.

Berman said that Philadelphia's tech scene is thriving with things like Philly Start Up Leaders — a network of entrepreneurs that provides resources for startups — and the annual Philly Tech Week, which was just held last month. Berman said Tech Week is a "phenomenal" event that could compete with notable similar events like South by Southwest, held in Austin, Texas.

"They do a great job of bringing people together," she said of the event.

She also touted the city's efforts in supporting startups, complimenting the work of Philadelphia's director of entrepreneurial investment, Archna Sahay. Though Sahay is expected to leave the office in mid-July, Berman said that role is an important one to entrepreneurs like her in providing a healthy "give-and-take" between startups and government.

"The city has invested so much by creating that position," she said.

Christopher Wink, co-founder and editorial director of Technical.ly — a technology-focused publication with offices in cities along the East Coast and organizer of Philly Tech Week — said that Philadelphia has "some of the pieces" needed to become a leader in tech, like California's Silicon Valley, but "we can always do more."

The Temple graduate said that in his eight years of working in the tech scene, he's seen Philly's tech community grow significantly, but he would like to see more national, larger companies come into the city.

"We need more serious, successful companies," he said. "The single most important brick is a legacy of successful companies."

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Trump and his allies have used different defense strategies to deflect recent criticism. GETTY IMAGES

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TRUMP'S AMERICA

A DESPERATE DEFENSE? IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3

OPINION

ELLIS HENICAN
@henican

First, blame the people who came before you. Then, swear you don't recall. And if all else fails, just pretend that everything is fine.

There we have it: the 1-2-3 punch of weak Washington defenses, which Team Trump gets to a T. From the Watergate break-in to the Russian-hacking probe, cornered politicians have been reaching for all three of them. Lately in T-ville, they've been on especially prominent display.

"Since the Obama administration was told way before the 2016 election that Russians were meddling," the president tweeted over the weekend, employing the old rearview-mirror trick, "why no action? Focus on them, not T!"

He's often referred to himself in the third person. After five months in office, one letter will do. Here, the trick is blaming the people who tried and failed instead of the people who won't try at all.

Jeff Sessions chose weak defense No. 2. In his recent testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, the memory-challenged attorney general answered "I don't recall" or its equivalent more than 20 times. If his recollection is quite that faulty, how can he possibly remember to deport millions of sympathetic immigrants or relaunch the failed war on drugs?

Oh. Wait. We should be so lucky, right?

But leave it to Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway. No one pretends like she does. As Republican senators kept coming out against the Senate's Obamacare-repeal plan, it was up to Kellyanne to explain how her boss has everything under control.

"He is working the phones," she insisted cheerfully. "He is having personal meetings. He hopes to get to yes."

It's going great. Really, it is. Too bad the out-of-power Democrats are being so obstructionist.

It hardly matters in any of the cases whether the defenses are accurate, relevant or true. That's entirely beside the point. One-third of the nation will buy them no matter what the facts and logic are. Two-thirds won't even listen. Now that Trump and his people have written off persuading anyone, it isn't even about content.

Just keep it simple. Blame. Forget. Smile.

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is a veteran journalist, best-selling author and frequent commentator on CNN and other TV networks. Follow him on Twitter @henican.

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Richard Branson's Run on Less will cross the U.S. to draw attention to environmental efficiency in the trucking industry. ISTOCK

Richard Branson's Run on Less to highlight fuel economy, carbon output

The cross-country roadshow takes place in September and will feature seven fleet companies.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
@MetroNewYork
nikki.mascali@metro.us

With the transportation sector as one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions, the trucking industry might be the last place you'd check for innovations moving toward clean energy.

That's why Sir Richard Branson, his Carbon War Room nonprofit and the North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE) decided to hold Run on Less, a cross-country roadshow set to race across America in late September. Run on Less will highlight technologies that provide better fuel economy and their subsequent benefits to the environment.

"If you don't go after transport emissions, you're going to fail," Branson said during a press call this week. "The average truck spends about $75,000 on fuel. If we can nearly halve their emissions, we can halve their fuel bill and make a big difference on reducing carbon emissions by 2050, which I think most people in most countries want us to get to."

Key word being "most countries" as President Donald Trump recently announced his plan to pull out of the historic Paris climate agreement to renegotiate a "better deal" for the U.S. in the 2016 accord between 192 countries.

"I suppose a lot of people in the world are baffled by the American administration's … very strange stance," Branson said. "Fortunately the other [191] countries stuck with it, most states in America have stuck with it, most companies in America stuck with it."

For Eric Fuller, CEO of U.S. Express, one of the fleets taking part in Run on Less, "being a steward of our environment is also very important to us. We really look to try and minimize our carbon footprint as much as possible."

Richard Branson GETTY IMAGES

Most semi-trailers average 5 mpg, but the technologies that will be showcased in Run on Less hope to raise that to 9 mpg. Those technologies, according to the NACFE, include reducing idle times, optimizing tires and improving aerodynamics.

Of those technologies, "there are no silver bullets" into which one will come out as the frontrunner during Run on Less, said Mike Roeth, who leads trucking efficiency operations for the NACFE and Carbon War Room. "These fleets in the run are about showing not only what can be run, but what is happening with some of the most fuel-efficient fleets out there."

For more info, visit Runonless.com.

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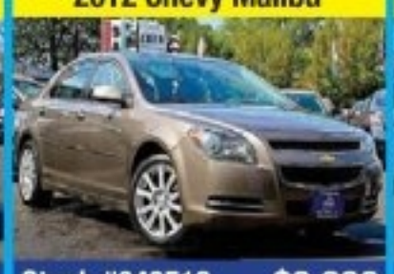

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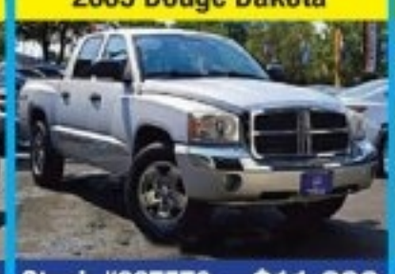

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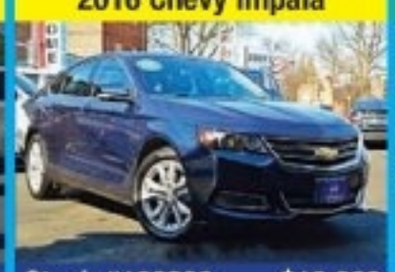

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NYC Pride marchers target Trump

The annual march took on a more political tone this year.

Marchers head down Fifth Avenue as part of the Pride March on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Large crowds turned out for the Pride March in New York City, a place long associated with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement, with the East Coast city bringing a more political flavor to the event sparked by events there almost 50 years ago.

A group of marchers heading down New York's Fifth Avenue carried photographs of Trump and his press secretary, Sean Spicer, as others waved banners bearing the word "resist" and the rainbow flag of the Pride movement.

Brad Hoylman, a Democratic lawmaker in the New York State Senate, said lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people were "under assault" by the Trump administration.

"He already rolled back rights for transgender students, for example, and the list is on and on," he said. "So we have a lot more work to do, that's why we are here today."

As a candidate, Trump promised to protect gay people. But his move in February to revoke the Obama administration's guidance letting transgender students choose which gender bathroom they use and his executive order last month to promote "religious liberty" have been seen by some as discriminatory.

The New York march's grand marshals this year included the American Civil Liberties Union, which was chosen for its history of litigation defending gay rights; Brooke Guinan, a transgender woman who works as a firefighter in the city; and Geng Le, a gay rights activist in China.

The march route ended on Christopher Street in Manhattan's West Village in order to commemorate the riots that broke out there in 1969 after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar, in an event seen as a turning point in the gay rights movement. One of the first Pride marches happened close by a year later. REUTERS

"He already rolled back rights for transgender students, for example, and the list is on and on ... So we have a lot more work to do, that's why we are here today."

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Trump family empire began with a brothel, soon to reopen for tours

Headed for the Klondike Gold Rush in the 1890s, Trump's great-grandfather seized a yuge opportunity.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The Trump family licenses its name to a number of businesses and brands, from hotels to golf courses. Daughter Ivanka Trump recently applied for Chinese trademarks for sanitary napkins and a plastic-surgery center. But one Trump holding may turn out to be the most infamous: a brothel.

The house of ill repute (for once, not in reference to the White House) was opened by Trump's great-grandfather Friedrich Trump in 1897 after he relocated from Manhattan to Bennett, British Columbia, Maclean's magazine reported.

Friedrich was pursuing the Klondike Gold Rush but found another income stream, beginning the Trump real-estate empire with a combination restaurant-brothel. "The current U.S. president may own resorts on four continents, but his ancestral fortune began with a two-storey outfit selling swan meat and sex in Canada," the magazine said. Most of the establishment's profits came from prostitution and alcohol.

A general view of the signage above the entance to the Trump Tower in midtown Manhattan. GETTY IMAGES

The Arctic Restaurant and Hotel is being restored by Parks Canada and the Carcross Tagish First Nation and will be opened for tours.

The establishment was open 24 hours a day with "private boxes for ladies and parties," according to an ad in the Dec. 9, 1899 Bennett Sun newspaper, Bloomberg reported. The boxes included a bed and a scale for weighing gold dust used to pay for "services," according to a Trump family biography.

There is a rich history for tourists to peruse. "I would not advise respectable women to go there to sleep," wrote a reporter for the Yukon Sun in April 1900, "as they are liable to hear that which would be repugnant to their feelings and uttered, too, by the depraved of their own sex."

Donald Trump has told The New York Times that the story is "totally false."

"I think he's lost touch with his roots," Jennifer Ingram, a Delaware tourist who visited Bennett in June, told Maclean's.

The opening date for the new tourist attraction has not been set.

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Top Democrat slams Obama administration's response to Russian hacks

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence GETTY IMAGES

The top Democrat on the U.S. House Intelligence Committee on Sunday criticized the administration of former President Barack Obama for not taking earlier and tougher action against Russia for its alleged hacks aimed at swaying the Nov. 8 election for Donald Trump.

"The Obama administration should have done a lot more when it became clear that not only was Russia intervening, but it was being directed at the highest levels of the Kremlin," said Rep. Adam Schiff on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

The Obama administration imposed sanctions in December on two Russian intelligence agencies over their alleged involvement in hacking political groups during the election, but those sanctions were too little, too late, Schiff said.

Schiff and his Senate counterpart, Dianne Feinstein, issued an unusual public statement in September condemning Russia for the alleged hacks. "We had to vet that with the intelligence community, but we took that step because we weren't succeeding in getting the administration to do it itself," Schiff said. REUTERS

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What happens when you threaten the president?

What happens when you threaten the life of the president of the United States?

For Johnny Depp, we still aren't sure. For Kathy Griffin, it cost her sweet New Year's gig with Anderson Cooper. After Ted Nugent invited then-President Barack Obama to "suck on my machine gun," he scored an invite to the White House to meet President Donald Trump.

But for celebrities and the rest of us plebeians alike, if you make a comment that could be seen as threatening to POTUS, does the United States Secret Service swoop in and take you to a Gitmo-esque hideaway?

Threatening the president of the United States is a class E felony. The Secret Service investigates suspected violations and monitors those who have a history of threatening the president.

President Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Under U.S. Code § 879, "whoever knowingly and willfully threatens to kill, kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon" the president or anyone else protected by the Secret Service can be fined, imprisoned for up to five years or get the package deal of a fine plus jail time.

Immigrants who commit this political offense can be deported.

"Of the individuals who come to the Secret Service's attention as creating a possible danger to one of their protectees, approximately 75 percent are mentally ill," the U.S. Attorneys' Manual reads. "The Secret Service is particularly concerned that media attention given to cases involving threats against protectees may provoke violent acts from such mentally unstable persons."

Mental illness or slippery grasp of the English language (for example, a foreign visitor who doesn't understand the language well) can carry weight when deciding if the threat was made "willfully."

U.S. Code § 879 is based on the English Treason Act 1351, which made it a crime to "compass or imagine" the death of the king.

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Prince Harry just wants to be a normal

Lately, Prince Harry has been doing his best to be even more well-liked and miraculously, I'm not sick of it yet. The artist informally known as the Hot Ginger Prince is opening up about how he once longed to be a regular ol' dude.

Harry revealed to journalist Angela Levin that he got so sick of being royal and rich that he briefly considered walking among the common people. Those feelings were exacerbated when he had to leave the Army — he was abruptly removed when his position in Afghanistan was leaked.

"I felt I wanted out but then decided to stay in and work out a role for myself." Yeah, Queen Elizabeth probably told him what's what.

But let's just be clear that when Harry says he wanted to be a commoner, he meant a rich one. 'Cause honey, you couldn't live in a four-bedroom in Brooklyn with no central air and a closet for a bathroom. I'll tell you that right now.

Dream big, Prince Harry.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
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Nicki Minaj's exes literally take it to the streets

In a desperate bid for attention, two men who have found the most fame as ex-boyfriends of Nicki Minaj are literally fighting each other in the streets.

In a video that came out over the weekend, Safaree Samuels narrates his experience of being jumped by Meek Mill's crew. He addresses Meek directly, for some reason. I mean, it's a reasonable assumption that Safaree has Meek's cellular number, but sure: "One-on-one you can't f—k with me, so that's why you had to do that."

In the video itself, over at TMZ, Safaree is seen literally running away from Meek's crew, who are the dudes throwing the punches. Methinks Safaree is one of those "fake news" types.

Minaj, meanwhile, is busy dating and having celibate sleepovers with rapper Nas, as you do. Good to know she's moving onward and upward. As much as I love when grown men act like children — it brings me an unbridled sense of joy! — I'm glad Minaj is like, upping her standards.

Ed Sheeran once lived with Jamie Foxx

Sometimes you discover that two celebrities that you didn't know knew each other know each other and it blows your mind. And that's what's happening between Ed Sheeran, Jamie Foxx and me right now.

He's Sheeran's fairy godfather.

The Katie Holmes boyfriend denier went on "The Graham Norton Show" and revealed that he is partially responsible for Sheeran's rise to fame.

"Ed Sheeran slept on my couch. For six weeks before he was famous," Foxx says. I'm sorry, what?

The 49-year-old singer/actor/comedian/seriously is there anything he can't do confessed that he was so enthralled by Sheeran's sheer talent, that he took him in under his wing. Then he challenged Sheeran by bringing him to an open mic he hosted.

"I said, 'Well, let's see what the kid has.' He brought the house down with his ukulele skills, and the rest, as we know is history." Ah yes, history. History is always hearing that one Ed Sheeran song in grocery stores and in Ubers across America.

Bella & Scott are still hanging

If that's what you want, girl.

Bella Thorne, a 19-year-old actress, recently said words to the tune of "Scott Disick is a bit much for even me." But fickle are the young, I guess: She's already back to hanging and partying with the perpetual moocher.

Thorne and Disick, 34, were seen leaving Lana Del Rey's birthday party at 1OAK nightclub.

A source tells People that the two have been spending quite a bit of time together. "Bella keeps spending time at Scott's house," the source told the magazine. "They have been hanging out every day. She seems to love the attention she gets from hanging out with him." Yeah, that is pretty clear.

But apparently, the relationship is not even romantic, which should be a small comfort to us all. "Scott has people over at his house almost every night," the source continued. "He continues to party."

I bet on a scale of, "Girl, I guess," to "I'm sorry, what?" Kourtney Kardashian is this close to "Boy, bye."

5 craziest things in the new 'Transformers'

"The Last Knight" is so nuts it will make you feel like you dreamt it.

MATT PRIGGE
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Mark Wahlberg has never been particularly convincing as a scientist.

"Transformers: The Last Knight," now in theaters, is nuts.
ALL PHOTOS PARAMOUNT PICTURES

You don't go to Michael Bay movies for logic. Still, "Transformers: The Last Knight," his fifth in the series, is some white hot nonsense. Every last inch of it is nuts, even for a series that, in the second episode, included a giant space robot with wrecking ball-sized testes. Here's the five parts that made us think acid had been slipped into our popcorn:

1 It all involves King Arthur somehow

Imagine your face when the very first scene in "The Last Knight" takes place in the Dark Ages — during a battle involving King Arthur. As we gradually learn, Transformers have been visiting Earth for centuries, helping out in wars, and usually for the correct side. (How millions of soldiers — as well as untold civilians — never thought to pass this intel along to the rest of the world is never explained.) They even helped King Arthur, apparently a real historical figure. They did this by giving Merlin — not really a sorcerer but a drunk played by Stanley Tucci — a magic rod that summons a fire-breathing dino-dragon. There were even 12 robot knights who sat at — or, given their size, probably stood near to — the Round Table.

2 Flashback to Nazi Germany

During a lengthy info dump around the halfway mark — delivered by no less than Sir Anthony Hopkins, cheerfully accepting a very large paycheck — we learn that the Transformers didn't just hang with King Arthur. They even killed Hitler! Cue a short but very expensive-looking scene in which a bunch of cars roll up to a swanky Nazi gathering — only the cars are Autobots, and they start blowing up a bunch of Nazis real good. Then as suddenly as this flashback began, it ends, leaving you to wonder if it ever happened at all.

3 Marky Mark quotes Arthur C. Clarke

It's so Michael Bay to cast the former leader of the Monkey Bunch as a crackpot inventor. We let that one slide in "Age of Extinction." But in "The Last Knight," there's a moment where Bay/Wahlberg cross a line. Speaking about how alien technology is like magic, Wahlberg's Cade Yeager rattles off a famous and very useful quote coined by sci-fi god Arthur C. Clarke: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Wahlberg sounds like he learned it phonetically.

4 Michael Bay solves Stonehenge

To delve too deeply into this one is a spoiler. So let's just say that Stonehenge plays a key part in the super-sized, endless climax, and that the Druids apparently built it to help out some robots from space that can also turn into cars. Which, we mean, is probably true.

5 The "robot ninja butler" interrupts Sir Anthony Hopkins

OK, this part we genuinely liked. During Hopkins' aforementioned exposition monologue, we're meant to lean forward, take the nonsense he's babbling about seriously. Except Michael Bay doesn't really want us to: He keeps having Hopkins' "robot ninja butler" — voiced by Jim Carter of "Downton Abbey" — interrupt him. What we think is a swelling organ on the soundtrack is actually his robot making music for dramatic-comedic effect. He keeps doing it with different instruments, each time enraging Sir Anthony. It's an old joke, but it's a funny joke, and a funny joke may not belong in something like "Transformers: The Last Knight."

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Ed Sheeran: 'Pop music is always adapting'

We chat with the British musician about his third album, "Divide," and touring.

LUCÍA HERNÁNDEZ
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Ed Sheeran is one of the world's most popular singer-songwriters, famous for hits like "The A Team," "Lego House" and "Thinking Out Loud." His most recent album, "Divide," was released in March, and now Sheeran is gearing up for a tour of epic proportions. We chat with the 26-year-old about his pre-show rituals and what he misses most about home.

Why did you call your albums "Plus," "Multiply" and your latest release, "Divide"?
I do not know, it's something I decided a few years ago and it started that way, I guess.

What do you normally do before going on stage?
I drink a lot of water, and that's all I do. There is nothing else.

What do you feel about the fans who listen to your songs during important moments of their lives, dedicating them to loved ones or playing them at weddings?
That will always surprise me, but it makes me very happy that they do that.

What was your main goal when you started recording "Divide"?
I just wanted to make an album that was better than the previous one.

And how was it when you first heard it over?
You know, it's a bit frustrating with this album because I was writing and producing the songs one by one, so I probably heard it full once it was on sale, but it was a special moment.

Ed Sheeran will be on tour through April of 2018. ESTEFANIA CERVANTES, MWN

Are you a perfectionist when it comes to your music?
Not really. I am a perfectionist in the sense that I like what I do to sound good, but my lyrics do not have to be perfect while I am writing.

You took a year off. Did it change the way you look at your career or life?
Yes, definitely. It gave me a new perspective on everything, especially on issues related to work.

How do you stay in shape and with your feet on the ground during the long tours?
I like to run, and I put a lot of effort into it.

And what do you miss the most when you're away from home for so long?
The ale, my family and the weather.

What is the most amazing thing about your fans?
How fast they learn the songs.

You write songs all the time, but what inspires you to start a new song?
I think that songs come from a personal experience. I always write lyrics that are born from it.

What music are you listening to now?
I must say that I spent a lot of time listening to Eminem's new album.

Are you excited about Taylor Swift's album coming out later this year?
Yes, of course. I have not heard anything yet, but I am excited.

Are you watching something on TV now?
A British show called "Broadchurch" is the one that has me trapped.

Has any song surprised you by becoming a hit?
Yes, I accept it. Whenever a new song comes out, I am unsure about the response that will come from the audience. But it always makes me happy to know that someone likes it.

What do you think about current situation of pop music?
Pop music is always adapting to what is happening today. This has always been the case and the situation has not changed much in the last 17 years.

What's next for you?
Keep going with the tour. It will continue for a long time.

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Amalgam Comics founder awarded competitive Knight Foundation Grant

Ariell R. Johnson is changing the landscape of Kensington and intersectional nerd culture.

KYLE HILLER
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Ariell R. Johnson is the founder of Amalgam Comics. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Her imaginative shop also serves coffee in addition to comics.

Ariell R. Johnson, founder of Amalgam Comics & Coffeehouse in Kensington, has been awarded the Knight Foundation Grant, an investment of $50,000 into strengthening Johnson's artistic vision of building community through comics, games and more at her shop. Amalgam is only in its 18th month, and Johnson has been trying to catch up with her own success.

The shop has exceeded her expectations, a vision she says she's been ruminating since 2003.

"I'm in a constant state of disbelief," she says. "So when other things happen—with every new accomplishment, there's new work on the table."

Johnson's hard work is illuminated by her humility and compassion. Amalgam has quickly become a haven for the entire community.

"We're in Kensington, which means the community here isn't affluent," Johnson says.

Kensington's rapid gentrification has been rife with controversy. In the spring, an anarchist group vandalized new homes and cars to the tune of $100,000. The group left its calling card on a sign in the neighborhood: "Gentrification is death. Revolt is life."

Part of Amalgam's vision is to mitigate that sentiment: "I feel like there's this unspoken but understood thing that these new businesses are not for the people who are native to the neighborhood, but Amalgam bridges that gap and includes everybody. Different backgrounds and socioeconomic upbringings is always something that I wanted."

With the grant, Amalgam's expansion will have more room and more opportunities to be inclusive.

Rumors of another store opening started to spread quickly once it was announced that she'd won the grant, but Johnson said there's much to do before something like that can happen. She promised new curricula for workshops and a renovation in the backspace to expand the store.

But Johnson didn't deny the possibility of opening a new location. For now, though, she wants to focus on building her team and continue to grow as a businesswoman.

The shop hosts anime film viewings every Wednesday, a monthly book club, book signings and more. Find Amalgam on Facebook and Instagram @amalgamphilly to stay up to date.

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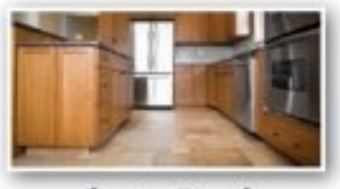

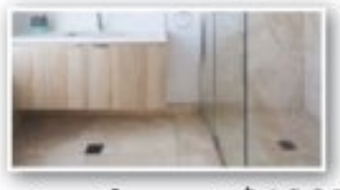

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Were you an emo kid? Still an emo kid? Well you better mark your calendar for Emo Nite LA's return to Philly on Friday, June 30, at Voltage Lounge.

The monthly event was started in Los Angeles by Babs Szabo, T.J. Petracca and Morgan Freed — three friends who wanted to build a community around the emo rock music of the '90s, 2000s and today.

"Babs and I were at a mutual friend's birthday party," Petracca notes on how it all began. "We met and sang Dashboard Confessional karaoke and became instant friends. That sort of instant friendship through music inspired the night."

Over the years, actors, musicians, visual artists and more have flocked to Emo Nite LA and notable attendees include Demi Lovato, Post Malone and Dillon Francis. It has since branched out to New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Atlanta, Louisville, Phoenix, Seattle and of course, the City of Brotherly Love.

For those of you who don't know what emo is (this is a general-interest outlet so there might be a few of you out there), it's a style of music influenced by punk with a tendency toward introspective lyrics and softer, more melodic instrumentation. Some notable emo bands would be My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Weezer and Sunny Day Real Estate.

For the event Friday, attendees can request songs in advance on Emo Nite LA's Facebook page. As far as other details go, it's all going to be one big surprise.

"You never know what's going to happen," says Petracca. "Last month we had some of the dudes from The Wonder Years pop by and do a DJ set."

If your life could use a little spontaneity, this could be the night out you've been longing for.

If you go

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We spoke with Kathy Tafel, the director of mobile engineering at Meetup, to find out more about the profession:

What does a mobile-app developer do?
Much like the title suggests, a mobile-app developer is responsible for creating, testing and programming apps for mobile devices. "They usually work with product managers, designers and artists to build app features and then bring those ideas to life through code," says Tafel. "If you're on a bigger team, your [code] gets integrated with other team members' work, and eventually that gets built into software that can be distributed by Google Play or the Apple app store."

What schooling do you need?
While a computer-science degree is not required, it is helpful. More important, though, is a basic understanding of how computers work. The rest can be learned through a series of online tutorials and classes. "You have to have a curiosity and a desire to make it happen — without that, you can't do it — but you absolutely don't need to go to school," Tafel says.

In fact, unless you attend a school that's devoted specifically to app development, a computer-science degree is not guaranteed to arm you with the needed skills. "You'll still need to do the same thing, which is learn on the internet how to use the environment, and run through tutorials," she says. After all, "engineering is usually all about sharing knowledge."

What's the typical salary?
The median salary for mobile app developers is $78,232, according to national averages surveyed by Glassdoor.

Finding employment
Nowadays, nearly every industry— from healthcare to fashion and entertainment— has an app, which means there are plenty of employment opportunities for those looking to enter the field.

And while the skills of an app developer are undoubtedly in high-demand, companies are generally looking for people with experience. Tafel's advice for those looking to break in: Create an app and maintain it for a few years. That gives you a tangible product to show to potential employers.

The pros
"There an exhilaration that comes from knowing that what you're typing on your screen will be on billions of people's devices in a couple of weeks," says Tafel.

And that doesn't even take into account the bigger picture. "You change the world every time you add something to the software ecosystem," she says.

The cons
For those working with a team, making compromises during the development phase can be a challenge. "It usually makes the software better, but it's one of those things that you have to learn that's hard about the job," says Tafel.

There's also the need to keep up with the pace of innovation. "When Google and Apple upgrade their operating systems, you're no longer doing the work that you choose to do — you have to just do what they say so that your software still works on their operating system," says Tafel. "That can be very frustrating."

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Second pick Patrick should play with Flyers this season

The Flyers No. 2 overall pick has the potential to contribute right away.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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Nolan Patrick has a good chance of making the Flyers roster as a rookie out of training camp. GETTY IMAGES

Nolan Patrick is officially a member of the Philadelphia Flyers organization.

After the Devils opted to select Nico Hirschier with the first overall pick at the NHL draft on Friday night, Patrick fell in to general manager Ron Hextall's lap at No. 2. Since Hirschier and Patrick were the consensus top-two picks — ranked No. 1 and No. 1A — it was probably the easiest decision Hextall has had to make since becoming GM.

Now, Patrick needs to officially become a member of the Flyers' roster.

Barring a poor performance at training camp — or suffering a long-term injury — the gifted center should take the ice with captain Claude Giroux and the rest of the team on Oct. 4 in San Jose for the season opener.

There is no need to send him back to his junior team, the Brandon Wheat Kings in the West Hockey League.

This 18-year-old is ready for the NHL.

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At 6-foot-3, 200 pounds, he already has the size and strength to survive the rigors of an 82-game season and would be one of the biggest players on the team.

A smooth skater who sees the ice well, has great hands, can score and is good at faceoffs and considered a two-way player, Patrick already has the skill to mesh with anyone on the roster and compete with anyone in the league. He finished with 20 goals and 26 assists in 33 games with the Wheat Kings last season, which was marred by an injury, and had 41 goals and 61 assists in 72 games in 2015-16.

> *"I think every hockey player wants to win a Cup, so that's my main goal, to win a Cup in my NHL career."*
>
> Flyers' first-round pick Nolan Patrick

What more does he have to prove in juniors?

While there is not much room for him to play center this season, he would have few issues moving to wing on the second or third line. He can move back to center next season after center Valtteri Filppula likely leaves as a free agent.

History is also on Patrick's side.

Of the last 11 players taken second overall, all but two have played in the NHL the ensuing season. They haven't just been warm bodies taking a few shifts, either. The majority have produced standout rookie campaigns.

The only hurdle standing in Patrick's way of wearing a Flyers jersey is his health. He missed 35 games last year due to a sports hernia, but as long as he is 100 percent recovered, which Patrick claims he is, then it should be a non-issue.

With the Flyers, Patrick will bring much-needed offense to a unit that needs a spark and join a core of young players to grow with such as Shayne Gostisbehere, Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecney.

Don't wait, Ron Hextall. Nolan Patrick should be a member of the Flyers this season.

The Flyers are loaded with defensive prospects. GETTY IMAGES

The Flyers defensive pipeline is a major selling point for players

There's no doubt that the Flyers prospect pool is as loaded as it has ever been, and that especially rings true on the defensive end of things.

The overwhelming amount of talent on the blue line, from Shayne Gostisbehere and Ivan Provorov at the highest level to guys nipping at the big club like Sam Morin, Travis Sanheim and Robert Hagg, has gained a ton of attention on a national level.

It's also striking a chord with draft prospects and likely, players on the open market.

"I think the Flyers have a really good team," said first-round pick Nolan Patrick. "If you look at their D core coming up, they've got some unbelievable prospects, so I think in a couple of years, they're going to be a really good team, or even this year coming up. I think they've got all the tools to do that."

It's a beautiful thing what general manager Ron Hextall has done in building up the team from the back end to the front, and that's including between the pipes. The Flyers have a wealth of talent coming up through the system in the net, which should result in this team having a very good overall defense for a very long time starting in another year or two.

The list of defensemen mentioned above didn't even including other top prospects like Phil Myers or Mark Friedman.

This is why the Flyers will soon, if not already, be a place where free agents want to come not just because of the fans or the history, but because there's a chance to be a part of something special.

Going back to the Flyers No. 2 pick on Friday, Patrick is also very familiar with the team's brightest youngster, Provorov. The two both came from the Brandon Wheat Kings.

"He's going to be a star," Patrick said. "He's an unbelievable player and he's got everything it takes to be a star NHL player in my mind."

It's clear that Hextall and his scouting team's diligence and patience with its prospects have created a pipeline that has become very appealing to other young players.

As soon as this team is ready to compete at the highest level, it's more than likely that players around the league who are looking for new teams will have the Flyers high on their list as a desired destination.

And that's all because of the major selling point that Hextall has created in his defensive prospect pool. KYLE PHILIPPI

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Late Phillies draft picks you should know about

During the 2017 MLB draft, the Phillies added some interesting players in later rounds.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
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While the majority of the Phillies later-round draft picks may wind up filling out the farm systems roster and never see the light of the major leagues, every year there are some interesting personas found in the late rounds of the draft. Sometimes it's relatives of former big-leaguers or current front office employees hearing their name called, but more often it's top-prospect high schoolers who are insistent they're going to college.

Teams figure if they draft them in the 30th round but pay them like it's the third, they've got a shot at it, and that's due to the magic of slot money. Teams are given a pool of money to spend on signing their top-10 selections. After the 10th round, any money spent over $100,000 to sign a player has to come out of that top-10 rounds draft pool. So if you draft a very-likely-to-sign college senior in the top 10, you can pay him less, and spend the difference on that hot prospect who swears he's going to Stanford in Round 33.

Due to that, there are plenty of promising players popping up rounds after you'd think their ilk would be gone. Here are five of the best deep cuts from the Phillies' 40-track album.

11th - Jake Holmes, SS, Pinnacle HS, Arizona
The first thing you notice about Holmes is his size for a shortstop: 6-foot-4. Holmes has signed to play college ball at Arizona State, but his high draft position would suggest he's one of the prospects the Phillies feel surer they can sign. He can field the position and should stay at shortstop.

13th - Colby Fitch, C, Louisville
Fitch, a junior at Louisville, spent the last two seasons fighting for playing time with the 32nd pick in last year's draft Will Smith. That didn't keep him from making his mark while Smith was still at the school. In 2016 he hit .339 in 108 at bats, and while that dropped to .260 as the full time starter in 2017, he more than made up for it with his command of the Cardinals pitching staff.

17th - Austin Listi, OF, Dallas Baptist
Speaking of power numbers, enter Austin Listi, who hit 24 home runs this season for Dallas Baptist. Listi saw a jump in production his senior season. His .336 average was the first time he hit over .300, his home runs increased from 10 each of the previous two years.

23rd - Shane Drohan, LHP, Cardinal Newman HS, Florida
Drohan is the first player on this list that it's really unlikely the Phillies can sign, and that's exactly why they were able to get him. The 106th ranked prospect by Baseball America doesn't show up in the 23rd round because other teams have fallen asleep at the wheel. He has a strong commitment to Florida State then, but the Phillies also have all that overslot money for a reason.

Will Louisville's Colby Fitch choose to leave school and go pro? GETTY IMAGES

34th - Kyle Hurt, RHP, Torrey Pines HS, California
Hurt is another player who would be an absolute steal if he doesn't prove impossible to sign. He has a commitment to USC, and had a potential first day of the draft grade without signability issues and an injury suffered this spring. He still ranks 94th on Baseball America's top 500 prospects for the draft.

His fastball touches 95 and he has a polished curveball and changeup. At 6-foot-4, 210 pounds, durability shouldn't be much of a concern.

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Sixers non-committal on Embiid, Simmons minutes restrictions

The Sixers are expected to make the playoffs in 2017, according to Las Vegas.

EVAN MACY
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The light at the end of the tunnel is finally starting to shine its beacon in Philadelphia.

After four years of darkness, the Sixers have stacked their roster with top 3 picks and with a core of Markelle Fultz, Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid expected to turn things around in the Wells Fargo Center, more than 14,000 season tickets have been sold for the upcoming season.

Las Vegas shares the Philly faithful's optimism. Two years after posting a franchise worst 10-72 record (last year they won 28 games) the Sixers are favored to make the playoffs, with the betting line at -125. They also have the seventh best chance of winning an NBA title next year, according to sports books, but 100-1 odds are still long — especially considering the Warriors are still in the midst of their reign.

Making the playoffs as a low seed would be a great accomplishment for the rebuilding Sixers, looking to finally shed that label. But injury woes and minutes restrictions could also be labels the team deals with in 2017-18.

Last season, Ben Simmons missed all 82 games after preseason foot surgery. Joel Embiid played in 31 games — posting nearly All-Star caliber stats — but was eventually shut down after a knee injury and more surgery ended his campaign for Rookie of the Year. He played just around 28 minutes per game due to restrictions on his game action. Will Embiid have similar restrictions next season? Will Simmons be limited too?

"If that's what the training and medical staff tells us, then that's going to be the case," Sixers' GM Bryan Colangelo said after the Sixers wrapped up the 2017 NBA draft last weekend. "I think both Ben and Joel are on course for recovery. I'd throw Robert Covington into that mix too, who's overcoming a surgery that I believe was in May. But the bottom line is that we anticipate a full, healthy roster and we're going to Summer League to try to look and see how the young players are developing and what their health statuses are. But yes, we look to have a full roster, and once again, if the health and medical performance staff tells us that we're ready to go, then we'll go."

Even if Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons are healthy in 2017-18, they may be restricted on the court. GETTY IMAGES

Keeping the team healthy is one thing. But if the Sixers have the chance at landing a playoff spot, it will be interesting to see how the medical staff, the coaches and the front office decide to manage Simmons and Embiid during the dog days of March and April as the playoff races heat up. The Sixers want to be relevant next season — but also are committed to competing for championships in the next three to five seasons.

"The decisions we are making with respect to contracts and extensions and free-agent moves and trades, everything is designed with a championship in mind," Colangelo said. "But it's about building it the right way and doing it organically. We want to look at this group, we have a young core of talent that we feel is very capable of becoming that group. But it doesn't happen overnight."

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Location: 1231 N. Broad Street, 4th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19122
www.philaoic.org

Requirements:

- Must bring your High School Diploma/Transcript or GED
- Must bring a Valid State ID (school ID not permitted)
- PA/DE & NJ Residents are welcome
- Must apply at OIC Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm
- TABE Testing Administered on site
- Must be able to adhere to our professional dress code policy if accepted to participate, which consists of black dress slacks or skirt, white dress shirt/blouse, black or dark color tie and blazer, black non-slip shoes (uniform starts the day of orientation)
- Must provide OIC with three written references at orientation (non-family members)
- NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY (PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN)

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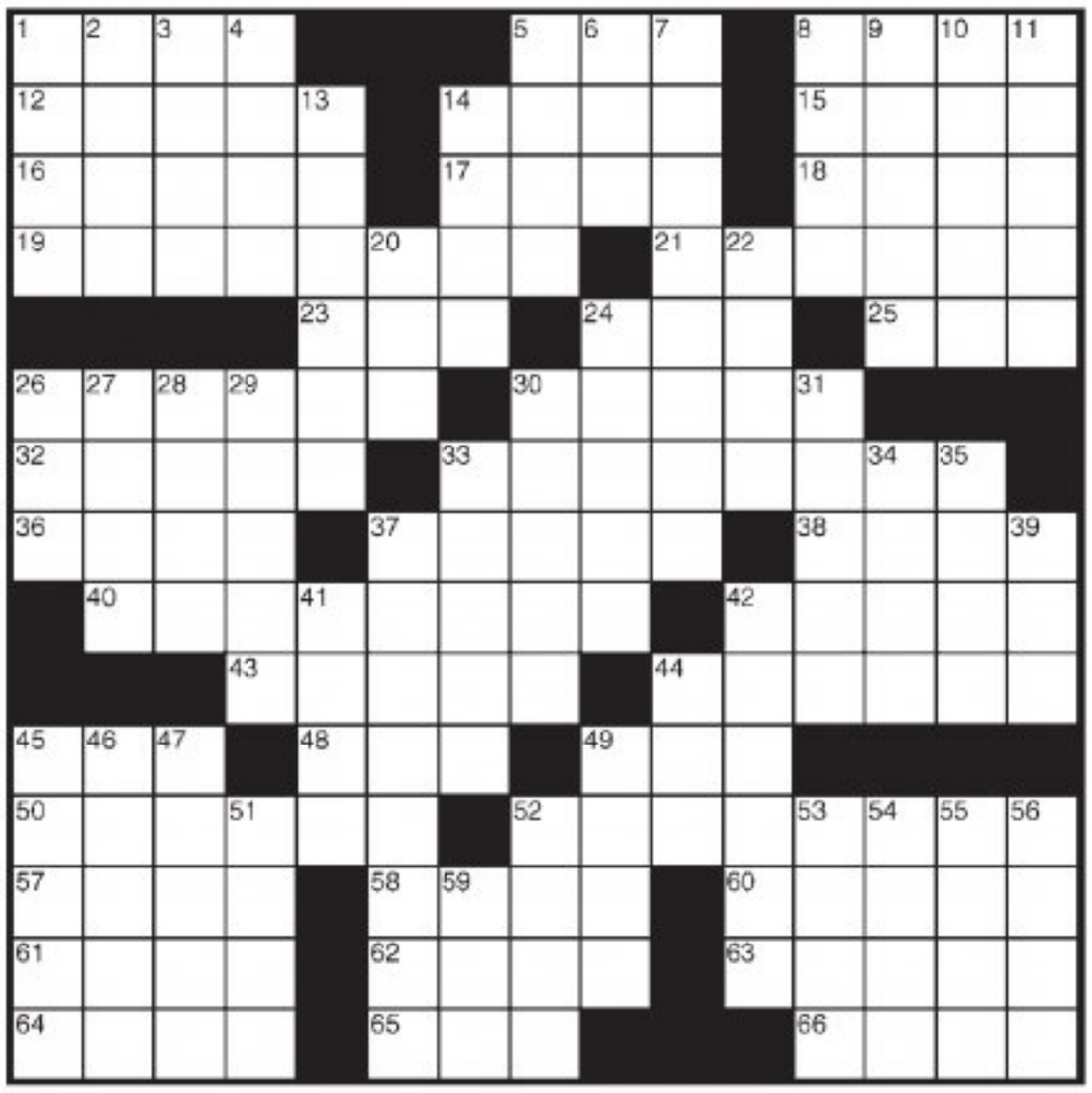

Across
1 Face-off
5 Soft toss
8 Shredded
12 Traffic indicator
14 Kachina maker
15 Pitch water
16 Whinny
17 "The Valley of Horses" author
18 Whodunit terrier
19 It may be keen
21 Rodeo rope
23 Pablo's aunt
24 Cato's dozen
25 NNW opposite
26 Tacks
30 Rockhound's find
32 Yearns for
33 Possible to achieve
36 An astringent
37 Boxcar riders
38 Acorn droppers
40 Not yet tried out
42 High mountains
43 Fixed a squeak
44 Most arid
45 Pertinent
48 Sewing kit item
49 Chili ___ carne
50 No longer in bed
52 Deteriorate (3 wds.)
57 Tiny stream
58 And others (abbr.)
60 Virginia caverns
61 Numerical prefix
62 Email option
63 "The Wreck of the Mary ___"
64 Bluebird's home
65 Give in the middle
66 Kitchen meas.

Down
1 Hamlet, e.g.
2 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
3 Ontario neighbor
4 Ships' journals
5 Unmannered one
6 Unseal, to Blake
7 Large numbers
8 Ski lift (hyph.)
9 Watering hole
10 Hayworth and Coolidge
11 Gladden
13 Eye parts
14 Merry sound (hyph.)
20 New draftees
22 Verdi opera
24 Inert gas
26 Moo companion
27 Freedom org.
28 Rebuff
29 Pace
30 Taunted
31 Tropical wood
33 Like a basket
34 Put cargo on board
35 Barely makes do
37 Sanctity
39 Mach 2 flier
41 Ready to eat
42 Palmer of golf
44 Fleck
45 Burr or Copland
46 Haggling point
47 Inclinations
49 Unfriendly
51 Coin eater
52 Work crew
53 Bird-feeder treat
54 Distinct periods
55 O.K. Corral name
56 Does batik
59 Herbal infusion

metro.us/sudoku

easy

		3	7	4			5	
		8	9					
	2		3		1		6	
	6		1					8
1	5			9			2	6
9					3		7	
	7		5		4		8	
					9	6		
	4			3	7	5		

hard

	6	5		2				
7		4	6			3		
3								6
2			9		6		3	
	1		4		2		9	
	4		1		5			2
4								9
		2			8	7		5
				6		8	4	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Trust your instincts, not what others say or prompt you to do. Spend time making cost-efficient changes at home that will bring you joy. Don't give in to pressure.

Taurus Put your emotions aside and stay focused on what you need to accomplish. Your diligence and attention to detail will make others take notice.

Gemini Look for an opportunity to try something new. If you talk to a former co-worker, you will get wind of a position that interests you.

Cancer Take the mystery out of what you want to pursue by stepping firmly forward. You won't know what's possible unless you try. Take a chance.

Leo Keep looking straight ahead to make it to your destination. Taking on too much or expanding your ideas or plans too quickly will set you back.

Virgo What you do will count. Don't be afraid to act. If you say what you think, your suggestions will be well received. Personal gains are apparent.

Libra Surround yourself with people you trust. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into something you don't want to do. Too much of anything will lead to regret.

Scorpio Live, learn and enjoy the company of people who share your passion and plans. Engage in open discussions that are geared toward getting the most for the least.

Sagittarius Consider ways to make improvements that will help you get ahead personally, professionally and financially. Unusual changes at home can be expected.

Capricorn Look over your finances and make adjustments that will help prevent losses or unnecessary overspending. Your input regarding a partnership situation will pay off.

Aquarius Pursue your dreams and expand your knowledge and experience. Discuss your concerns. A partner will encourage you to go the distance and finish what you start.

Pisces Expand your interests and sign up for activities that will inspire and challenge you to follow your dreams and develop your skills, talents and knowledge. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

P	S	I	■	W	A	G	E	S	■	■	C	R	E	E
I	T	D	■	A	W	A	K	E	■	C	H	A	R	T
Q	U	A	R	R	E	L	E	D	■	I	O	N	I	C
U	N	H	I	P	■	■	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
E	G	O	T	I	S	M	■	N	E	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	A	I	S	■	B	R	O	I	L	S
V	I	A	■	G	R	E	E	D	■	S	W	O	O	P
C	H	I	P	■	A	N	V	I	L	■	N	U	D	E
R	O	D	E	O	■	S	E	N	O	R	■	S	E	W
S	P	A	R	S	E	■	R	E	V	E	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	I	N	E	■	D	E	D	U	C	T	S
W	A	S	H	E	S	U	P	■	■	U	N	L	I	T
A	S	T	I	R	■	R	E	F	E	C	T	O	R	Y
L	E	A	N	S	■	O	L	I	V	E	■	T	E	L
T	A	N	G	■	■	S	T	E	A	D	■	S	S	E

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